

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Steven J. Cotroneo
Group : 3733
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Serial No. : 10/553,941
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Title : A DEVICE AND METHOD FOR USE IN SURGERY
Customer No. : 28101

Proposed Amended Claims for Consideration
By the Examiner Prior to Entry
[] - Language Deleted
Underlined - Language Added

In the claims:

It is proposed to amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery, the device comprising a sleeve having an exit aperture and an entry aperture, the sleeve being shaped and dimensioned to permit the passage of a hand therethrough; and a distensible member secured to or formed integrally about the sleeve adjacent the exit aperture; wherein the distensible member is positioned on the sleeve to be locatable, in use, within the cavity, and is sufficiently distensible to distend the cavity an amount which will allow hand assisted surgery to be performed within the cavity without the use of insufflation gas inserted in the cavity.
2. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the distensible member is generally annular in form and is located circumferentially about the sleeve adjacent the exit aperture.
3. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the distensible member comprises a plurality of distensible sections arranged in an annular array or in a series of annular arrays adjacent the exit aperture.
4. (original) A surgical device according to claim 3 in which the plurality of distensible sections may be individually, sequentially or simultaneously distended.

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5. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the distensible member is secured to an exterior of the sleeve and is arranged to distend away from the arm, in use.

6. (previous presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the entry aperture has a larger cross sectional area than the exit aperture.

7. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the sleeve is substantially frustum shaped.

8. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the sleeve is formed from a flexible material.

9. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the sleeve is shaped and dimensioned to permit the passage of a surgeon's hand therethrough and to accommodate at least a surgeon's forearm, in use.

10. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the sleeve is formed from a fluid impermeable material.

11. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the device further comprises a reinforcing member located about the entry aperture of the sleeve, in order to hold open the entry aperture.

12. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the device comprises means operable to seal the exit aperture from the entry aperture.

13. (original) A surgical device according to claim 12 in which the sealing means comprises a one way valve.

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14. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the sleeve is provided with a lubricant on an interior surface thereof.

15. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the device further comprises means for conveying a fibre optic camera along the length of the sleeve.

16. (original) A surgical device according to claim 15 in which the conveying means comprises a passage extending along the length of the sleeve.

17. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the device further comprises a cover releasably securable about the entry aperture, in order to fluid-tightly seal the entry aperture.

18. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the sleeve is substantially transparent.

19. (previously presented) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the device further comprises a cuff located circumferentially or annularly about the sleeve adjacent the exit aperture of the sleeve.

20. (previously presented) A method of distending a surgical cavity, the method comprising the steps of;

- providing a surgical device according to claim 1;
- passing a hand through the sleeve of the device;
- inserting at least the distensible member of the device into the surgical cavity; and
- distending the distensible member an amount which will allow hand assisted surgery to be performed within the cavity.